

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04989 041759Z  
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
PA-02 /034 W

-----088189 041802Z /44

O 041727Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4272

INFO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4989

DEPT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND  
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S AUGUST 4 REMARKS TO PRESS

FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY VANCE AS HE  
RETURNED TO THE HOTEL FOLLOWING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT  
ASSAD:

QTE:

SECRETARY: I MET THIS MORNING WITH THE FONMIN FOR ABOUT  
TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS AND THEN WENT DIRECTLY FROM THERE TO  
A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WHICH LASTED ABOUT THREE AND  
ONE-HALF HOURS. WE COVERED QUITE A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS  
IN DEPTH. IT WAS A VERY USEFUL AND FRIENDLY MEETING,  
AND I'LL BE TALKING MORE WITH THE FONMIN TONIGHT.

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QUESTION: DID YOU TAKE UP THE WORKING GROUP IDEA?

SECRETARY: YES. WE DID. I DISCUSSED THE WORKING GROUP IDEA  
WITH THEM. THEY HAD SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT IT, AND I LEFT THE  
SUGGESTION WITH THEM. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD  
IS GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TONIGHT AND MAYBE  
HE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET ANY SENSE OF HOW TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION FROM PRESIDENT ASSAD?

SECRETARY: WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING ABOUT THAT PROBLEM. AND ...

QUESTION: WAS THAT ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORKING GROUP?

SECRETARY: WHAT?

QUESTION: THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.

SECRETARY: NO, IT DIDN'T COME UP IN THAT CONNECTION. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: ARE YOU CLOSER TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE AFTER THESE CONVERSATIONS OR ARE YOU ABOUT IN THE SAME POSITION?

SECRETARY: WELL, I AM ONLY PART WAY ALONG ON THE TRIP. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN USEFUL AND HELPFUL TO ME. WE'VE EXCHANGED IDEAS, I HAVE PUT FORWARD IDEAS, THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD IDEAS. IT'S A PROCESS OF DEVELOPING IDEAS. I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO CHARACTERIZE IT MORE BROADLY.

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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU BRIDGED THE GAP AT ALL WITH SYRIA?

SECRETARY: OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH SYRIA ARE FINE.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES, I MEAN.

SECRETARY: THANKS A LOT.

UNQTE.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SECRETARY'S AUGUST 4 REMARKS TO PRESS FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY VANCE AS HE RETURNED TO THE HOTEL FOLLOWING TALKS WITH PRESIDE  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** STATE  
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